

**MARIN COUNTY COUNCIL OF MAYORS AND COUNCILMEMBERS  
MINUTES**

**Wednesday, October 28, 2020  
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE  
6:00pm**

**Members Present**

Belvedere: Campbell, Kemnitzer, McCaskill, Wilkinson  
Corte Madera: Beckman, Casissa, Kunhardt  
Fairfax: -  
Larkspur: Haroff, Hillmer, Way  
Mill Valley: McEntee  
Novato: Athas, Eklund, Lucan, Peele, Wernick  
Ross: Kuhl, McMillan, Robbins  
San Anselmo: Colbert, Greene, Wright  
San Rafael: Colin, Gamblin, Phillips  
Sausalito: Cleveland-Knowles, Withy  
Tiburon: Fredericks, Ryan, Thier

**Ex Officio:** MCCMC Secretary Rebecca Vaughn

**Guests were:** Supervisor Damon Connolly; District Attorney Lori Frugoli; Nancy Hall Bennett, League of California Cities North Bay Division; Jenny Callaway, District Director for Congressman Huffman

**Call to Order**

President Eric Lucan called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m., and welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Marin County Council of Mayors and Councilmembers via webinar for October 28, 2020. A roll call of the Marin towns/cities was taken.

He then called for Public Comment.

**Public Comment**

Seeing no public comment, President Lucan proceeded to introduction of the guests in attendance: Supervisor Damon Connolly, Supervisor Katie Rice, Supervisor Dennis Rodoni, Mark Van Gorder, PG&E. He opened the meeting with an icebreaker game of zoom Pictionary, and then called on Dr. Willis to provide a presentation.

**4. Presentations:**

**4A: Dr. Matt Willis, Marin County Public Health Director - Update on local and regional response to COVID19 and recovery efforts**

President Lucan introduced Dr. Matt Willis and thanked him for providing this presentation to MCCMC.

Dr. Willis summarized Marin County's current status in the pandemic, the reopening with the California blueprint, and also spoke about schools, the election, holidays and travel guidelines.

The County's status as of October 28, 2020, is that the County has had almost 5,000 cases with 171 hospitalizations cumulative and has reached the 100th death. This is our curve, when we talk about "flattening the curve" this is the number of new cases each day, and what you see is a clear single arc

of an increase, a plateau, and a decrease. He stated he would also speak about how the County is going to prevent any future transmission or future surges.

Marin saw a real spike in July, and is now down to five individuals in the hospital today with zero individuals in the ICU, one other sign of the progress that we've made. Hospitalizations across the Bay area per capita shows that Marin County has the lowest hospitalization rate of any of the Bay area counties. This is down from early July, when Marin had the highest hospitalization rate, partly attributable to the outbreak at San Quentin that was occurring at that time.

Marin's case counts, hospitalizations and deaths have steadily decreased. We are not currently having any outbreaks at long term care facilities, skilled nursing facilities, and residential care facilities for the elderly. There are no COVID patients in the ICU currently in any of our hospitals. We have the lowest ever percent positivity since the start of the pandemic, partly because in the earlier days when we had limited testing capacity we were only testing people who were higher risk, so had symptoms or known exposures. Thus, our percent positivity was higher then, and then as we increased the testing capacity, we were also seeing surges in transmission, so we had higher percent positivity for that reason at that time.

Now we're in that place where we have much more testing capacity combined with lower rates of transmission that has led to a percent positivity of less than two percent. In addition, the Canal outbreak is resolving from a peak of about 39% positivity, when in one week in July almost more than one in three people who were lining up for our testing in that community were actually infected. That percent positivity has dropped significantly to about four percent and is closer to the county-wide percent positivity. Marin is also seeing similar decreases in parts of Novato, where we historically had also elevated rates, mainly the Latinx community. And in addition, the County's testing and contact tracing capacity is expanding.

So all of that brings us to the announcement that the Governor made yesterday, that Marin county is moving from tier two, the red tier, into tier three, the orange tier, based on our case rates and our adjusted case rates. As you know, we have a raw case rate and then based on our testing rates, there was an adjustment factor. Marin County has the second highest testing rate in California, and that offers us a relatively generous adjustment in our case rates. So the adjusted case rate for us comes in at 2.6, which is comfortably below that number of 3.9 that allows us to move into orange, and with a 1.4 percent positivity rate.

Then they also now look at the percent positivity in our lowest income communities, that quartile of census tracts, which is primarily based on income, and our percent positivity in that community is 2.4. If it were higher than five percent, that would have prevented us from moving into orange, even though our raw case rates would have allowed us to move forward. We're also comfortable in that factor.

Dr. Willis displayed a table that summarized where Marin's numbers are relative to the different levels and the tier status that the governor has announced. Marin is in the orange tier. He stated that it's going to be awhile before we would think about moving into the yellow status, which is tier four, because that's less than one case for 100,000 on average per day, but that's our goal. He further summarized that the County's testing rates are significantly higher than the California average testing rate, that Marin's case rate has been declining steadily and continues to decline, Marin's overall percent positivity rate also is declining, and that the lowest income quartile percent positivity also is declining.

He then explained what that data means for Marin in terms of what we can reopen. He explained the California Blueprint, and how it differs from the earlier shelter in place order in March, which was a purely local order. It was part of regional effort where the six Bay Area counties came together to offer the first shelter in place order nationally, and it was a while after that, that the state offered its own policies and shelter in place orders. Marin has been moving more and more towards using the state's

guidance, and we are moving with this in almost every way. There are still some small areas where Marin has chosen to be a little more restrictive than the state would allow. But for all intents and purposes, we're following the state guidance directly.

Regarding what is currently allowed to be open indoors: hair salons, retail malls, libraries, personal care services that includes nail salons, other personal care services, museums can reopen at 50% capacity; places of worship also 50% or 200 people, whichever is fewer; movie theaters at 50% capacity. Hotels and lodging are open. Gym and fitness centers now can be open to 25% capacity up from 10% capacity when we were in red. Restaurants moved from 25% capacity to 50% capacity indoors. Wineries are now coming on board at 25% capacity. Family entertainment centers, card rooms. Indoor pools are now open. Offices, including non-essential office work is now allowed indoors. And we're now also allowing bars and breweries to be open outdoors.

Regarding the school status, Dr. Willis discussed a new dashboard available online, called Flash Schools. It allows anyone to track the status of our school reopening process. If you hover over any of the schools on the map you'll see the name, the address of the school, the enrollment in that school, the grades of the school, and where they are, either fully opened or open to a hybrid model, and any other comments the school wanted to offer.

The dashboard also shows the total enrollment of students across the county, the number of total staff, and the proportions of schools that are open. Of Marin's 105 schools, 54 are them are open, so about 47% of our schools are open to at least 10% in person classroom based learning. More are coming online at the end of October and early November. And public schools in Novato and San Rafael are heading in that direction for early November opening. The dashboard also displays the number of suspected in-school transmissions, and we haven't had any since September 8th when schools started re-opening under special permission through the waiver process.

Marin has had no cases of transmission of COVID-19 within the school environment. We had a total of six students who have been infected at some point who have been in the school setting while infected based on the testing that we've done. None of those led to any other transmission, but we have had cohort closures, which is the protocol, and we've had one documented case of staff who was infected while in the school. If you add the number of students who are in each day since the beginning of September, there are more than 80,000 of those days where students have been in school. So the risk per day is far less than .01 percent.

One of the more important initiatives that we engaged in this month to help reopen schools was a testing drive in San Rafael City schools. As you know, the Canal and other parts of San Rafael were our hotspots in Marin and the source of the highest number of cases for a good amount of time in June, July and into August. And we wanted to make sure that we were considering reopening schools in that environment that we had a sense of what the prevalence in that community was.

He spoke about setting a goal to test at least 800 San Rafael school aged children over that two week interval of October 5th through 16<sup>th</sup>. They actually exceeded that goal and ended up testing 965 students, finding a percent positivity of 2.1 percent for the youth, and 1.7 percent across the board with over 4,000 people, students and adults, tested. Then breaking up the Canal area, since that was the area of most concern, we saw also a percent positivity of less than five percent both for youth and for adults, which offers that measure of reassurance that San Rafael City schools were seeking in their intent to open in early November.

Dr. Willis explained that it's hard to know how and what to celebrate in the midst of a pandemic, especially when the virus is still a threat to our community. But he thinks we can all recognize that this is an opportunity to acknowledge progress and maybe take a breath, recognizing that this is going to

be with us for months more. This is more of a marathon than a sprint. But we have made significant progress.

Regarding the election, the County is moving to make sure that elections can happen as safely as possible. The most important single message is to vote by mail, and if you have to vote in person, doing it with maintaining physical distance, masking up, sanitizing. The County Elections Department has been distributing some infographics throughout the community. There are expanded hours for the polling places, of which there are 29 throughout the county. They will be open from early in the morning until late in the evening, just to allow for some of the physical distancing necessary by eliminating crowd sizes, and this is on our website as well, [marinvotes.org](http://marinvotes.org).

Dr. Willis then discussed that we have talked about flattening the curve, but he wants to just start thinking together that rather than imagining that we're looking at one single epidemic or we're flattening the curve, the reality is that as COVID-19 progresses across the nation and the world, it's really more waves that we're anticipating. And this is just the latest data from today from CDC about cases across the United States. What this shows is that now this is really into the third wave of transmission. It's likely that this is because, as you make progress and have declining case counts, it leads to further reopening. That reopening leads to increased risk for transmission, which could then lead to more cases, which would lead to more closures. This is also true when you look at 1918 flu pandemic, there were three significant waves, with deaths over time in 1918 and 1919, correlated to different policies as the pandemic progressed.

He then shared graphics and guidelines for safely celebrating upcoming holidays. It was the least popular decision to say that we shouldn't be Trick or Treating this year, but importantly this is a year where finding other ways to celebrate Halloween is important. The County will be publishing other guidance next week about safe holiday gathering, but it's all going to boil down to the same principles: Transmission risk is based on duration and proximity to an infected person. So we're talking about having smaller groups, making sure that gatherings are occurring outdoors with facial covering and they're physically distanced, closer to home is safer than traveling further from home, a shorter duration of the gathering, preventing mixing of households, and sticking to household specific food and drink servings rather than buffet style shared. The County will be offering more specific guidance than that, but at the end of the day internalizing these as the principles of reduced risk is important.

This is an emerging concern as we see lower case rates in Marin and across the state and higher case rates elsewhere is that travel is now an increasing threat to us because people are traveling outside of California, and outside of Marin. It's likely they're traveling to areas where there's more cases than there are in Marin. That used to be the other way around. California was among the highest states so I wasn't as concerned about travel at that time, because people were essentially traveling to areas most likely where there was much less transmission. But now that that has reversed, we're considering guidance around requiring quarantine for people who return from air travel within the United States, outside of California; or a requirement to test seven days after they return before they return to work or school. That hasn't been finalized yet, but this map shows and explains why we might be thinking about a policy like that because of trying to protect the gains that we've achieved.

Dr. Willis concluded his presentation with a reminder to get your flu shot. We want to prevent that "twindemic" that people have been talking about where we would have potentially simultaneous surges of both COVID-19 and influenza coming into our ICU's.

So in summary Marin is in Tier 3, orange, starting yesterday. The control of transmission allows us for further reopening. We are vulnerable to slipping back because we're having more indoor activities, larger group sizes, holiday gatherings and holiday travel, and we want to make sure people try to vote by mail, and get the flu shot.

Following the presentation, Dr. Willis took questions from the audience. After Q&A concluded, President Lucan thanked Dr. Willis for his time and continued with the business meeting.

**5. Committee Reports:** All Committee reports were submitted in writing and are available in the agenda packet on the MCCMC website. President Lucan thanked those who submitted written reports and encouraged the membership to review the reports.

- 5.a. Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) - Written report from Supervisor Damon Connolly
- 5.b. Association of Bay Area Governments – Written report from Pat Eklund, Novato
- 5.c. Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District - Written report from Alice Fredericks, Tiburon
- 5.d. Transportation Authority of Marin - Written report from Alice Fredericks, Tiburon,
- 5.e. Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit (SMART) - Written report from Dan Hillmer, Larkspur
- 5.f. MCCMC Climate Action Committee – No written report submitted

## **6. BUSINESS MEETING**

### 6.a. Consideration and Possible Action to Appoint Representatives to the Following Committees:

Expiration of current terms were announced and Letters of Interest were solicited at the September 23, 2020 meeting. Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor, and appointments will be made at the October 28, 2020 MCCMC Meeting.

#### 6.a.1 MCCMC Representatives to League of California Cities, North Bay Division Executive Board for Calendar Year 2021

(Three seats have expiring terms: Representative, 2nd Representative and Alternate Representative) MCCMC Representatives are appointed annually for the upcoming calendar year

Expiration of current terms were announced and letters of interest were solicited at the September 23 meeting. A letter of interest for the 1<sup>st</sup> Representative Seat was received from Amy Peele, Novato, which was included in the agenda packet, and she was nominated for the 1<sup>st</sup> Representative Seat by Denise Athas, seconded by Eli Beckman. No further nominations were received from the floor.

No letters of interest were received for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Representative and Alternate seats. Gabe Paulson, Larkspur, was nominated for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Representative Seat from the floor by Eli Beckman, seconded by Denise Athas.

There were no nominations from the floor for the Alternate seat.

There was a motion and a second (Beckman/Athas) to appoint Amy Peele, Novato, to serve as the 1st Representative, and Gabe Paulson, Larkspur, to serve as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Representative, to the League of California Cities North Bay Division Executive Board for a one year term commencing January 1, 2021 and expiring December 31, 2021. The Alternate seat will be held vacant until any letters of interest are received.

The motion was approved unanimously by roll call vote of the cities/towns present, 10-0-1 (Fairfax absent)

6.a.2 Marin County Transit Board of Directors

(Two seats have expiring terms: Representative and Alternate Representative, for 2-year terms commencing 1/2021)

Incumbents with expiring terms are:

- Representative: Kate Colin, San Rafael
- Alternate: Brian Colbert, San Anselmo

Expiration of current terms were announced and letters of interest were solicited at the September 23 meeting. Letters of interest were received from Kate Colin, San Rafael, for the Representative Seat, and from Brian Colbert, San Anselmo, for the Alternate Representative seat, and were included in the agenda packet. Seeing no additional nominations from the floor, President Lucan called for a vote.

There was a motion and a second (Phillips/Kunhardt) to appoint Kate Colin, San Rafael, to serve as MCCMC Representative, and Brian Colbert to serve as Alternate MCCMC Representative, on the Marin County Transit Board of Directors for two year terms commencing January, 2021 and expiring January, 2023.

The motion was approved unanimously by roll call vote of the cities/towns present, 10-0-1 (Fairfax absent)

6.a.3 Sonoma/Marin Area Rail Transit Board of Directors (SMART)

(One seat: Board member, for 4 year term commencing 1/2021. Procedural Note: The SMART Board is a regional transportation district established pursuant to AB 2224 in 2003 to oversee development and implementation of passenger rail service in Sonoma and Marin Counties. Novato and San Rafael each have one seat on the board; MCCMC appoints one at-large member from a city other than Novato or San Rafael, who is also a member of the Transportation)

Expiration of current term was announced and letters of interest were solicited at the September 23 meeting. A letter of interest was received from Dan Hillmer, Larkspur, and was included in the agenda packet. Seeing no additional nominations from the floor, President Lucan called for a vote.

There was a motion and a second (Haroff/Way) to appoint Dan Hillmer, Larkspur, to serve as MCCMC Representative to the Sonoma/Marin Area Rail Transit Board of Directors for a four-year term commencing January, 2021 and expiring January, 2025.

The motion was approved unanimously by roll call vote of the cities/towns present, 10-0-1 (Fairfax absent)

6.b. Re-Announcement of Current Vacancy and Request for Letters of Interest for Appointment to the CAL-ID Remote Access Network Oversight Committee:

The opportunity for appointment was re-announced and letters of interest solicited. Consideration and Action to Make Appointments of a Primary and Alternate to Represent MCCMC on the CAL-ID RAN Oversight Committee for new two-year terms, would be made by the City Selection Committee at its next meeting, which would be scheduled for January 27, 2020, should Letters of Interest be received.

6.c. Review of Draft Agenda for January 27, 2021 MCCMC Meeting

There were no comments from the membership and no public comments received, in person or via email, on the draft agenda.

6.d. Approval of Draft Minutes of the September 23, 2020 MCCMC Meeting

President Lucan called for any edits or corrections to the September 23, 2020 draft minutes. Hearing none, he called for public comment. No public comments were received, in person or via email, regarding the draft minutes, and President Lucan called for a motion.

There was a motion and second (Fredericks / Cleveland-Knowles) to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2020 MCCMC meeting. The motion was approved unanimously by roll call vote of the cities/towns present, 10-0-1 (Fairfax absent)

After concluding the Business Items on the agenda, President Lucan reminded the membership that MCCMC will not be meeting in November and December. He concluded the meeting with a farewell to outgoing Councilmembers and announced that he hopes to honor them at a future meeting once in-person meetings can resume. Gary Phillips, San Rafael, and Ray Withy, Sausalito, both expressed their appreciation for MCCMC and wish their colleagues well going forward.

**Adjournment**

President Lucan thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 7:05pm to the next regular meeting scheduled for January 27, 2021 to be held in person, if possible, or via Zoom videoconference.